

November Meteors—Fifteen Hundred Shooting Stars Observed at Yale College—Letter from Professor Loomis to the Editor of the Evening Post:

On Monday night November 12th, a company of observers at this place counted six hundred and ninety shooting stars in five hours and twenty minutes, which is about four times the average number visible for the same period throughout the year. On Tuesday night, November 13th, another company counted eight hundred and eighty-one shooting stars in five hours, which is five times the average number. On Wednesday night the sky was overcast, so that no observations could be made. We conclude, then, that the number of shooting stars visible about the 13th was very remarkable; nevertheless, this display is not to be compared with that of November 13, 1833, in which the number of meteors was variously estimated at from ten thousand to thirty thousand per hour. The grand display, therefore, which it was supposed might possibly occur this year, has not been witnessed in the United States and probably not in Europe, or it would have been announced to us by telegraph. It may have been witnessed in Asia or the Pacific Ocean, but if such had been the case, it seems probable that the number visible in the United States would have been greater than ours. The telegram in this morning's "Herald," purporting to come from Greenwich, is evidently spurious. It is therefore probable that there has not been witnessed this year, in any portion of the world, a display of meteors all to be compared with the grand display of 1833.

An unusual interest on this subject appears to have been excited, some of your readers may wish an answer to the question, What are shooting stars? and, How do we account for their periodical display in unusual numbers? Shooting stars may, without much impropriety, be called little comets. Each meteor is a small body, generally of very little density, revolving about the sun in an elliptical orbit, governed by the same laws as the larger bodies, Jupiter and Saturn. The average number of these bodies which encounter the earth every day is several millions, and still there is no perceptible decrease from year to year. The total number of these bodies, therefore, belonging to our solar system must be reckoned by millions. The earth, in its motion about the sun with a velocity of nineteen miles per second, is continually encountering more or less of these bodies, and they plunge into our atmosphere with velocities varying from ten to forty miles per second, by which means heat is developed sufficient to ignite them, and they are entirely consumed generally in a single second, and at an elevation of about fifty miles above the earth's surface. Occasionally we encounter bodies of a greater density which cannot be so readily consumed, and they reach the earth, sometimes entering and other times in a fragmentary condition. Samples of such meteors are to be found in all the large mineralogical collections of this country and Europe.

The periodical display of shooting stars in unusual numbers indicates that they are not distributed uniformly throughout the solar system, are collected in vast numbers in certain regions while in other regions there are comparatively few. Shooting stars are annually seen in great numbers on the 10th of August, and since each meteor is moving in its orbit with great velocity, while every year we find large numbers of them near the same point of the earth's orbit, we conclude that they are arranged in a ring or zone, revolve around the earth's orbit at a point which the earth passes through about the 10th of August.

In order to explain the occurrence of an unusual number of shooting stars year after year, about the 13th of November, we suppose that there is another ring of these minute bodies, somewhat inclined to the ecliptic. Throughout the different portions of this ring the meteors are distributed in very unequal numbers; but there is one portion where the number is immensely great, and it is this portion which the earth encounters at intervals of about thirty-three years.

According to Professor H. A. Newton, the reason that this display returns only once in thirty-three years is the following: Each meteor in the November group moves in an orbit which is nearly circular, with a main distance from the sun either a little less or a little greater than that of the earth and a period about eleven days or greater than one year. The earth encountered the densest portion of this group in November, 1833, but the next year this portion passed eleven days less or before or after the earth returned to that point of its orbit; the following year the difference amounted to twenty-two days, so that at the end of about thirty-three it must gain or lose one entire revolution, and return nearly to the position where it may have encountered the earth. If we recollect no unusual display of meteors this week in any part of the world, we shall look with considerable confidence for such a display on November 14, 1867.

**Ecclesiastes**—New Version To be Read at the Next Ball.

I said in my heart, sati in now, and have a bulky time among the girls.

But the girls wagged their heads at me, and laughted me, for I was poor and did not dance.

Neither loved I kissing nor ice cream which I avasted.

I, the Preacher, have seen dancing. And I said, doth no woman know how she looketh when she dances?

Hath she flannels, then she sheweth them; and shef linens, then she will exposit; and if she wear hoops, then she displayeth many things.

There is nothing worse for a woman than that she should be bandy-limbed and dance—and that she should wear a titter in a waltz.

These also I saw, and hid my face for shame. Neither should a knock-kneed woman dance, nor one that hath a holt in her gait, for this is foolishness. For who can enjoy a blemish, and an awkward dancer is to be pitied.

And a man, if he dance, let him keep his countenance.

For lohoid, I have seen men dance, and I have seen men dance, and they that dance travail the most.

And I have seen their faces, and they blotted like the last run of shad.

And behold, they were much distressed, and sweat exceeding; and this they called enjoyment.

So the women also grapsed and panted like a dog, and travailed much; but they drank lager and returned to their vexation. This also is vanity.

But I say unto you, wise men, Dance and turn away from wisdom; so shall ye find more joy among the women.

But cursed is he that hath understanding in a day when foole vs the earth.

For a light foot is more esteemed than a well-filled head, and a gib tongue better than silence and much learning. A fool is to be envied, for he receiveth favor among the women.

But woe unto you, wise men, that speak wisdom to a woman; for she will shun you like a spitting toad.

And I considered these things, and—I saw that all was vanity, so I joined Jamie Linen in a Scotch reel.

As General Butler was driving from his hotel in Columbus, Ohio, to the depot, a man in great haste from the sidewalk into the street, stopped the carriage and exchanged, holding up a dirty spoon. "Here, General, here's something you dropped."

A blush is the sign which nature hangs out to show where chastity and honor dwell.

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an extensive Grocery House in connection with their Dry Goods Establishment, and are now prepared to furnish Planters with anything they may need in the shape of Dry Goods, Household, Books, Seeds, Hay and Threshing

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UNDER THE

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NOTE:

The proprietor of the above favorite resort will be found at his post ready and willing to enter the wants of his customers.

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Book and Job Printing.

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